REMARKS

Claims 1, 8, 10, 13, 15, 17, 20, 22, 24, 25, 27 and 28 remain pending in the application, of which Claims 1, 8, 15, 22, 25 and 28 are independent. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 8, 15, 22, 25 and 28 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,911,044 (Lo), and Claims 3 to 7, 10 to1 4, 17 to 21, 24 and 27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Lo in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,123,063 (Ohkubo). Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are respectfully requested.

The present invention concerns an information processing apparatus controlling an image input device, such as a scanner, based on how the scanner is connected to the information processing apparatus. According to one feature of the invention, a determination is made whether the image input device is connected to the apparatus locally or via a network. If the device is connected locally, the apparatus receives image data input by the device in a batch transfer mode. On the other hand, if the device is connected via a network, then image data is received, via an external apparatus connected to the image input device, parallel to an input process at the device.

With specific reference to the claims, amended independent Claim 8 is an information processing apparatus for controlling an image input device, comprising determination means for determining whether the image input device is locally connected to the information processing apparatus, or whether the image input device is connected to the information processing apparatus via a network, and receiving means for receiving image data in a batch transfer mode from the image input device when the determination means determines that the image input device is locally connected to the information

processing apparatus, and for receiving, parallel to an image input process at the image input device, via an external apparatus connected to the image input device, image data input by the image input device when the determination means determines that the image input device is connected to the information processing apparatus via the network.

Claim 1 is a system claim that includes the apparatus of Claim 8, while Claims 15, 22 and 25 are method, computer medium and computer program claims, respectively, that substantially correspond to Claim 8. Similarly, Claim 28 is an apparatus claim that substantially corresponds to Claim 8, but which is written in non-means-plus-function terminology.

The applied art, alone or in any permissible combination, is not seen to disclose or to suggest the features of Claims 1, 8, 15, 22, 25 and 28, and in particular, is not seen to disclose or to suggest at least the features of an information processing apparatus receiving image data in a batch transfer mode from an image input device when a determination is made that the image input device is locally connected to the information processing apparatus, and receiving, parallel to an image input process at the image input device, via an external apparatus connected to the image input device, image data input by the image input device when it is determined that the image input device is connected to the information processing apparatus via a network.

Lo is merely seen to disclose a network image scanning system which includes a client computer and a scanner server computer connected by a network. A virtual TWAIN driver is utilized by an application-program running in the client computer. The virtual TWAIN driver interfaces with a client protocol encoder/decoder within the client computer. Commands and information are communicated over the computer network between the client and scanner server. More specifically "(t)he client protocol

encoder/decoder 108 transmits and receives packets encoded in accordance with the Ricoh Workgroup Protocol described below with respect to FIGS. 7A-7L and 3A-13E, or any other desired protocol, which are encapsulated within the selected transport protocol. It is the responsibility of the client protocol encoder/decoder 108 to encode and decode the protocol packets." (see Column 7, Lines 28 to 35).

Lo, however, fails to disclose an information processing apparatus receiving image data in a batch transfer mode from an image input device when a determination is made that the image input device is locally connected to the information processing apparatus, and receiving, parallel to an image input process at the image input device, via an external apparatus connected to the image input device, image data input by the image input device when it is determined that the image input device is connected to the information processing apparatus via a network.

Ohkubo is merely seen to disclose that an image processor employs a plurality of types of scanners. Each scanner has an associated scanner identification number. The image processor has a scanner identification table and associated scanner control information. A scanner interrogation means requests that a selected scanner transmit its identification number and reads control information for the scanner from the table. The selected scanner is then controlled in accordance with the scanner control information read from the scanner identification table. Ohkubo, however, like Lo, fails to disclose an information processing apparatus receiving image data in a batch transfer mode from an image input device when a determination is made that the image input device is locally connected to the information processing apparatus, and receiving, parallel to an image input process at the image input device, via an external apparatus connected to the

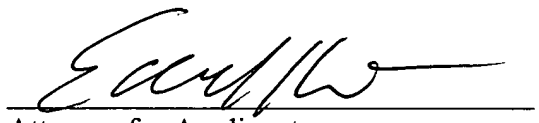
image input device, image data input by the image input device when it is determined that the image input device is connected to the information processing apparatus via a network.

Therefore, neither Lo nor Ohkubo, alone or in any permissible combination, disclose or suggest the features of the present invention.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the entire application is believed to be in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, CA office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



Attorney for Applicant
Edward A. Kmett
Registration No. 42,746

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, New York 10112-2200
Facsimile: (212) 218-2200

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